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The Council of Seventy.

FOUR COURSES OF STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

It is not often that the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE can offer any special help to those who are studying the International Sunday-school lessons, since the subject-matter of the INSTITUTE'S four-years' course is fixed, while that of the Sunday-school lessons under the International system frequently changes. Beginning with January 1, however, there is an opportunity to make a happy combination. The International lessons take up the book of Acts at that time, and the INSTITUTE provides well-planned work covering the same material in courses varying in degrees of difficulty, from the simple outline course for general adult classes to the most technical work in the original Greek. The following is a statement of these opportunities in detail, beginning with the most elementary:

I. *An outline course for adult classes or for teachers.*

This course covers in outline the Acts, the epistles, and Revelation, in their historical connection. The work for each day is definitely assigned. The Bible only is used. The work is not done *for* the student, but he is so directed in it that the results of his own work may be relied upon.

The Monthly Bulletin for Study, by means of which the work is conducted, is sent to each student on the first of every month. Besides the directions for study, the bulletin contains full analytical outlines of the Acts and each of the epistles; a series of review questions is also furnished, and a special letter from the principal of the INSTITUTE giving some practical thoughts of interest to Bible students.

A certificate is awarded for the return of the nine duplicate question sheets which are provided to those who wish to study with a certificate in view. The questions need not be answered from memory, but are intended simply to summarize the work of the student.

If a club is formed for the study of the course, special suggested programs for club meetings are provided. The principal sends to all leaders of clubs a monthly letter giving further suggestions.

The enrolment fee for this work is 50 cents for the course. The time required for the work is from fifteen to twenty minutes daily.

This is an admirable course to be used in connection with family worship. Supplementary reading is recommended for those who desire it. This is the department in which last year ten thousand students were enrolled.

II. *A reading course for ministers, teachers, and others desiring more technical work.*

This course requires the reading of nine standard volumes of history and biography covering the period of the apostolic church. For each book a special review has been prepared by some member of the COUNCIL OF SEVENTY. The list of books, the reviews, and the BIBLICAL WORLD for one year are furnished for the fee of \$2, which is the regular subscription price to the BIBLICAL WORLD when taken independently. Special arrangements for loaning books on favorable terms are also made.

III. *A correspondence course on the Acts.*

This course will give a thorough grasp of the individual facts which make up the history, the accurate and complete understanding of these facts, their relations to each other in a comprehensive view of the history, and the vital lessons of belief and practice which the history contains for the individual Christian and for the organized Christian church today. The chief topics for investigation in this study will be: (1) The organization of the church, its source, development, officers, members, method of government, rites, services, etc. (2) The environment of the church, its relation to the ecclesiastical and civil powers, and to the common people. (3) The development of the church as it adapted itself to the new conditions of time, locality, and nationality, as well as to the circumstances of its own growth. (4) The belief and teaching of the church concerning the way of salvation, the resurrection, the person of Christ, the relation of Christianity to Judaism, the relation of Christianity to paganism, etc. (5) The practice of the church concerning the daily lives of the Christians as regarded their duties toward God, toward the world, toward each other, and of each toward himself. (6) God's providence sustaining and directing the church. (7) The records which have preserved to us a history of this primitive period of Christian church history.

The work will be conducted by means of regular fortnightly written recitations. These will receive the attention of a skilled instructor who will return the lessons with corrections and criticisms. Each student will receive the same individual attention as a student in school or college. An effort will also be made to adjust the work of the teacher so

that he may keep well ahead of his class. This can be done if enrolment is made sufficiently early. The course is equally valuable for the general Bible student who wishes a thorough practical study. *The tuition fee* for this course is \$5. The books required will be : study leaflets, \$0.40 ; Cambridge Bible *Commentary on Acts*, \$1.10 (The Macmillan Co., New York) ; and either Bartlet's *Apostolic Age*, \$2 (Scribner's, New York) or McGiffert's *Apostolic Age*, \$2.50 (Scribner's, New York).¹

IV. *A correspondence course on the Acts in Greek.*

This course will be a linguistic, exegetical, and historical study of the entire book of Acts. It will give a thorough study of the syntax of New Testament Greek as regards the verb. The books required will be Burton's *New Testament Moods and Tenses*, \$1.50 ; Westcott and Hort's *Greek Testament, with Lexicon*, \$1.90 ; and a first-class commentary on the book of Acts (such as Knowling in the Expositor's Greek Testament, Plummer in the Cambridge Bible, Hackett, Gloag, Meyer, or Wendt). The tuition for this course will be \$8. The work will be conducted by means of fortnightly written recitations under a specialist in New Testament Greek. A reading knowledge of Greek will be required.

Here, it will be observed, is an opportunity from the point of view of the pastor to devote some time to scholarly work for himself ; or to read carefully chosen books, and, perhaps, to prepare to preach a series of sermons along the line of the Sunday-school lessons ; or to conduct a successful teachers' meeting ; or to do some systematic work with a class in the Sunday school ; or to organize, from members of his church who do not attend Sunday school, a class for systematic study ; or to urge upon the families of his church the use of the daily outline work in connection with family devotions or individual study.

Inquiries addressed to the office of the INSTITUTE at Hyde Park, Chicago, will receive careful attention.

¹ Other books of high value for this study, but not required, are : HACKETT, *Commentary on Acts*, \$2, American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia ; SCHAFF, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. I, \$4, Scribner's, New York ; WEIZSÄCKER, *Apostolic Age of the Christian Church*, 2 vols., \$7, Putnam, New York ; LECHLER, *The Apostolic and Post-Apostolic Times*, 2 vols., \$5, Scribner's, New York ; CONYBEARE AND HOWSON, *Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, \$3, Scribner's, New York ; RAMSAY, *St. Paul the Traveller and Roman Citizen*, \$3, Putnam, New York.